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California State Parks Honors Legislative Black Caucus for Protecting State Parks

*The California Legislative Black Caucus, Congresswoman Susan Davis and
Senator Christine Kehoe Recognized with Legacy Awards*

SACRAMENTO, CA – Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus will accept, on behalf of the Black Caucus, the 2008 Legacy Award from the California State Parks Foundation (CSPF) on Monday April 7, during a legislative reception coinciding with the Sixth Annual Park Advocacy Day in Sacramento.

CSPF commended the California Legislative Black Caucus for their diligent work to defend state parks. In 2007, the Caucus advocated to protect Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park from proposed mega-dairies that would negatively impact the park. Assembly Member Amina Carter (D-San Bernardino) and other members of the California Black Legislative Caucus successfully helped pressure the landowner and state to come to an agreement that saved the unique quality of the park.

“The preservation of Col. Allensworth State Park is also the preservation of a critical, yet little-known, piece of California history,” said Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas (D-Los Angeles), Chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus. “The immense contributions of African Americans to the development of California are stories that must be told. Allensworth is a significant part of that story.”

Additionally, the Black Caucus sponsored a 22-panel statewide traveling exhibit commemorating the Centennial Celebration of Allensworth. The exhibit opened at the state Capitol in February and will travel throughout the state.

CSPF is also presenting the 2008 Legacy Award to Congresswoman Susan Davis (D-CA) and Senator Christine Kehoe (D-San Diego) for their efforts to ensure that state parks are protected for the future.

“Congresswoman Davis, the California Legislative Black Caucus and Senator Kehoe have proven to be strong advocates for the California state parks system,” stated Elizabeth Goldstein, President of CSPF. “We commend these leaders for both their commitment to state parks as well as their understanding of the value of treasured state parks to future generations.”

Every year, the CSPF honors legislative leaders who have done exemplary work for California state parks.

Previous winners of the California State Parks Foundation Legacy Award include Senator Don Perata (2007), Assembly Member Pedro Nava (2007), and Assembly Member Tom Harman (2006).

About California State Parks Foundation

With its 95,000 members, the California State Parks Foundation is the only independent nonprofit membership organization dedicated to protecting, enhancing, promoting and advocating for California’s magnificent state parks. For more information about California’s state parks, visit www.calparks.org.

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